

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02436 011206Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
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O R 011100Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1293
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USIA WASHDC

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DEPT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US
SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS ON US-TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: (A) ANKARA 2435 (DTG 311610Z MAR 78), (B) ANKARA 2687
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(DTG 311803Z MAR 78)

1. SUMMARY: TURKISH PRESS APRIL 1 CONTINUED PROMINENT COVERAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS. PRIMIN ECEVIT'S MARCH 31 PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN HEADLINE TREATMENT IN PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS. ALLEGED STATEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE FAVORING CONTINUATION OF EMBARGO CARRIED IN SENSATIONALIST PRESS. GOT REPORTEDLY CON-

CERNED BY VICE PRESIDENT'S ALLEGED REMARKS AND HAS ASKED EMBASSY FOR TEXT. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE SEND TEXT OF REMARKS. END SUMMARY..

2. LEFTIST (PRO-GOVERNMENT) TURKISH PAPERS APRIL 1 GAVE PROMINENT, POSITIVE TREATMENT TO PRIMIN ECEVIT'S MARCH 31 STATEMENT THAT RELATIONS WITH THE US HAVE REACHED "A POSITIVE AND HOPEFUL STAGE" (REF A), BUT TREATMENT IN THE REST OF THE PRESS WAS LESS UPBEAT, WITH CONSERVATIVE (PRO-OPPOSITION AND INDEPENDENT PAPERS, IN THE CONTINUING ABSENCE OF INFORMATION IN ANKARA ON CONTENT OF US-TURKISH TALKS, BEGINNING TO FIND NEGATIVE ASPECTS IN NEWS FROM THE US AND ATHENS. ASIDE FROM RECENT NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL (COVERED IN MAJORITY OF PAPERS) WHICH ASSERTED NEED FOR TURKISH WITHDRAWAL FROM CYPRUS BEFORE LIFTING OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO, CONSERVATIVE PAPERS PLAYED UP MENTION IN AP REPORT THAT US EXPECTED ECEVIT TO DO ALL HE COULD TO SOLVE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

3. INDEPENDENT, MASS-CIRCULATION NEWSPAPERS GUNAYDIN AND HURRIYET BOTH PLAYED UP ALLEGED REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO AKROPOLIS (REF B) THAT HE FAVORS CONTINUANCE OF THE EMBARGO. HURRIYET'S FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE READ "ECEVIT IS HOPEFUL BUT CARTER'S ASSISTANT SAYS 'ON WITH THE EMBARGO'". GUNAYDIN ALSO QUOTED MONDALE'S ALLEGED REMARKS AT LENGTH BUT INCLUDED THEM WITHIN A MORE POSITIVE STORY HEADED "CARTER CONVINCED THE GREEK LOBBY ON THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO." GUNAYDIN STORY, BASED ON REPORT FROM "VOICE OF GERMANY" BROADCAST, STATES THAT PRES, VPRES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECSTATE, AND NSC HEAD HELD SECRET MEETING MARCH 24 WITH GREEK LOBBY LEADERS SARBANES AND BRADEMAs TO CONVINCE THEM THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO LIFT THE EMBARGO.

4. LOW KEY STORY ON FRONT-PAGE OF MODERATE LEFTIST MILLIYET SAYS THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO LIFT THE EMBARGO IN AN INDIRECT FASHION, INSTEAD OF HAVING THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT RATIFIED, BY INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR MEETING TURKEY'S CURRENT ARMS NEEDS WITHIN THE FY 1979 MILITARY AID PROGRAM.

5. MFA DUTY OFFICER CALLED CHARGE MORNING APRIL 1 AND REQUESTED ON BEHALF OF PRIMIN TEXT OF VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD REPORT HAD BEEN BASED ON ALLEGED INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN GREEK PRESS, BUT SAID HE WOULD SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON. (PROBLEM COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT GERMAN RADIO REPORTEDLY PLAYED REPORT AS STRAIGHT NEWS STORY NOT ATTRIBUTED TO GREEK PRESS.) WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ADVISED INFORMALLY BY PRIMIN'S OFFICE THAT HE IS CONCERNED AND PUZZLED BY VICE PRESIDENT'S ALLEGED REMARKS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE INFORMATION UPON WHICH TO BASE OUR REPLY TO PRIMIN'S

REQUEST.

DILLON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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